

This listing of claims will replace the prior version in the application.

1. (currently amended) Process for the manufacture of aqueous suspensions of brochantite ($\text{Cu}_4(\text{OH})_6\text{SO}_4$) or antlerite ($\text{Cu}_3(\text{OH})_4\text{SO}_4$) or a mixture of both, having a content by weight of solids greater than 10%, by reacting an aqueous solution of copper sulphate CuSO_4 with an aqueous suspension of copper oxide or copper hydroxide used in a total SO_4/Cu molar ratio ranging from 0.25 to 0.40, the said process being characterized in that an aqueous solution of CuSO_4 having a concentration by weight of copper of between 6% and 10% is mixed with an aqueous suspension of solid particles of copper oxide or copper hydroxide having a concentration of between 15% and 50% by weight and in which the mean diameter of the solid particles is less than 25 μm , the reaction being carried out at a controlled temperature of between 40°C and 100°C.

2. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the aqueous suspension of solid particles of copper oxide or copper hydroxide additionally contains copper sulphate.

3. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the mean diameter of the solid particles of the aqueous suspension of copper oxide or copper hydroxide is between 0.1 and 10 μm , ~~preferably between 0.5 and 5 μm~~ .

4. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the ~~wet sieving~~ residue from wet sieving with a at 25 μm sieve of the solid particles of the aqueous suspension of copper oxide or copper hydroxide relative to the dry extract is less than 5% by weight, ~~preferably less than 2% by weight~~.

5. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~Claim 1, characterized in that the aqueous solution of CuSO₄ has a copper concentration by weight of between 6.5% and 8%, ~~preferably between 6.6% and 7.6%~~.

6. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 5~~Claim 1, characterized in that the aqueous suspension of copper oxide or copper hydroxide has a concentration of between 20% and 30% by weight.

7. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 6~~Claim 1, characterized in that the copper oxide is copper(II) oxide CuO.

8. (currently amended) Process according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 7~~Claim 1, characterized in that at the end of the reaction, ~~the~~ excess copper sulphate is removed by filtration or neutralized with the aid of an organic or inorganic base.

9. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 8, characterized in that the neutralization of the excess copper sulphate is carried out with the aid of an organic base such as a salt of carboxylic or polycarboxylic acid in which the cation is ~~the~~ sodium ion, ~~the~~ potassium ion ~~or the [,]~~ ammonium ion, or an amine, ~~or with the aid of an inorganic base such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lime, aqueous ammonia or sodium or potassium carbonate.~~

10. (currently amended) Process for the manufacture of aqueous suspensions of brochantite having a solids content by weight greater than 10%, by reacting an aqueous solution of copper sulphate CuSO₄ with an aqueous suspension of copper oxide or copper hydroxide used in a total SO₄/Cu molar ratio ranging from 0.25 to 0.34, according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 9~~Claim 1, characterized in that, after mixing the reagents, the reaction medium is kept at an initial temperature of less than or equal to 60°C for a period of between one hour and 3 hours, and then the reaction medium is thereafter brought to a higher temperature which is maintained for at least one hour.

11. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that the initial temperature is preferably between 40°C and 60°C.

12. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 10 or 11, characterized in that the higher temperature to which the reaction medium is brought is at most equal to 100°C, ~~preferably between 65°C and 80°C~~.

13. (currently amended) Process for the manufacture of aqueous suspensions of brochantite, antlerite or a mixture of both having a solids content by weight greater than 10%, by reacting an aqueous solution of copper sulphate CuSO₄ with an aqueous suspension of copper oxide or copper hydroxide used in a total SO₄/Cu molar ratio ranging from 0.33 to 0.40 according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1, characterized in that, after mixing the reagents, the reaction medium is kept at an initial temperature at most equal to 100°C for a period of between 0.5 hour and 3 hours.

14. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 13, characterized in that the initial temperature is between 70°C and 100°C, ~~preferably between 80°C and 90°C~~.

15. (currently amended) Process for the preparation of cupric fungicidal compositions in the form of suspension concentrates, suspo-emulsions, dispersible granules or wettable powders dispersible in water, characterized in that an aqueous suspension of brochantite or antlerite or a mixture of both, as prepared according to ~~one of~~ the Process ~~Claims 1 to 14, is used of~~ Claim 1.

16. (currently amended) Cupric fungicidal compositions ~~which can be~~ obtained by the process according to Claim 15, characterized in that they additionally contain one or more adjuvants ~~such as a~~ selected from dispersing agents, a wetting agents, an antifoaming agents, a colorants, a thickeners, a pH regulators ~~or and~~ fillers, the copper content of the said compositions being between 30 and 45%.

17. (currently amended) Cupric fungicidal compositions which can be obtained by the process according to Claim 15, characterized in that they additionally contain one or more adjuvants such as a selected from dispersing agents, a wetting agents, an antifoaming agents, a colorants, a thickeners, a pH regulators or and fillers and at least one synthetic fungicide, the copper content of the said compositions being between 15 and 40%, preferably between 18 and 40%.

18. (currently amended) Cupric fungicidal compositions according to Claim 17, characterized in that the synthetic fungicide is chosen from mancozeb, maneb, zineb, cymoxanil, famoxadone or and benthiavalicarb.

19. (currently amended) Use of a fungicidal composition according to one of ~~Claims 15 to 18~~ Claim 15, for the fungicidal treatment of crops.

20. (new) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the mean diameter of the solid particles of the aqueous suspension of copper oxide or copper hydroxide is 0.5 and 5 µm.

21. (new) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the residue from wet sieving with a 25 µm sieve of the solid particles of the aqueous suspension of copper oxide or copper hydroxide relative to the dry extract is less than 2% by weight.

22. (new) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the aqueous solution of CuSO₄ has a copper concentration by weight of between 6.6% and 7.6%.

23. (new) Process according to Claim 8, characterized in that the neutralization of the excess copper sulphate is carried out with the aid of an inorganic base such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lime, aqueous ammonia or sodium or potassium carbonate.

24. (new) Process according to Claim 10, characterized in that the higher temperature to which the reaction medium is brought is between 65°C and 80°C.

25. (new) Process according to Claim 13, characterized in that the initial temperature is between 80°C and 90°C.

26. (new) Cupric fungicidal compositions obtained by the process according to Claim 15, characterized in that they additionally contain one or more adjuvants selected from dispersing agents, wetting agents, antifoaming agents, colorants, thickeners, pH regulators and fillers and at least one synthetic fungicide, the copper content of the said compositions being between 18 and 40%.

Respectfully submitted,



12 October 2005

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Date: 12 October 2005

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